

USSN 09/454,216

Page 4

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 1-37 are pending in the application, that claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9, 11-17, 19-30 and 36-37 are rejected, and that claims 5, 8, 10, 18 and 31-35 are objected to. By this amendment, claims 1-4, 12-17, 23-30 and 36-37 are cancelled, claims 5-7, 9, 18-22 and 31-32 are amended and claims 8, 10-11 and 33-35 continue unamended.

In view of the amendments and the following discussion, the applicants submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in allowable form and that such allowance is earnestly solicited.

The amendments made herein are made to further the prosecution of this patent application to issue, and not in response to prior art.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claims 5, 8, 10, 11, 18 and 31-35 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To further prosecution of this application to issue, the applicants have amended claims 5, 18 and 31 as indicated by the Examiner. Moreover, all dependent claims have been amended as necessary to depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 5, 18 or 31. As such, it is respectfully submitted that having made such amendments in conformance with the Examiner's request, the claims now pending in the application should proceed to issue.

It is noted that claims 5, 18 and 31 are rewritten in independent form, and that claims dependent therefrom have been amended as appropriate.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants submit that all of the claims presently in the application are patentable and that allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited. If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner

USSN 09/454,216

Page 5

telephone Mr. Eamon J. Wall, Esq. at 732-530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 6/4/02

EJ Wall

Eamon J. Wall, Attorney
Reg. No. 39, 414
(732) 530-9404

MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, LLP
Attorneys at Law
595 Shrewsbury Avenue, Suite 100
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702